

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-816

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Lewis Cummings House

## 2. Location

street & number Black Walnut Point Road    not for publication

city, town Tilghman    vicinity of    congressional district Fifth

state MD    county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  X  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>  X  </u> building(s)	<u>  X  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  X  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  X  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  X  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William S. Wilson, Jr.

street & number    telephone no.: 301-592-7629

city, town Phoenix    state and zip code MD 21131

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court    liber 601

street & number Talbot County Courthouse    folio 535

city, town Easton    state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-816

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lewis Cummings house is located at the end of an oyster shell road off of the east side of Black Walnut Point Road on Tilghman Island, Talbot County, Maryland. The house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The Cummings house is one of the earliest structures on Tilghman Island, dating to about 1856. The exterior of this two-story frame house is clad in cedar shake shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the house is supported by a low brick pier foundation.

The west (main) facade of the house has three bays with a central door flanked by six-over-six sash windows with narrow surrounds. The door is sheltered by a gable roof portico supported by plain posts. The second story is lit by three six-over-six sash windows. Two one-story, gable roof additions telescope to the north from the main house.

The south elevation is blind with an interior brick chimney which pierces the roof of this gable end.

The east elevation has a full width screen porch on the first story. The first floor of the house is lit by two six-over-six sash windows and a central door. The second story is lit by three six-over-six sash windows. The east elevation of both the first and second additions has an entrance doors.

The north elevation of the main house is a blind gable end with an interior brick chimney which pierces the roof. A one-story, one room gable end addition telescopes out from the main body of the house and is lit by a three-over-three sash window on the west side, and a door on the east side. A second addition, built by the current owners, is a one-story, gable roofed structure which was built onto the north end of the first addition. Both additions are covered in cedar shake shingles and roofed with red, corrugated tin.

The interior of the house has been changed little over the years despite the additions and two rebuilt fireplaces. The exposed ceiling beams of the first floor room on the south end are particularly interesting. Measured indentations in these beams, which have nothing to do with their current use, suggest that they were salvaged from an earlier structure.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-816

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Larrimore Cummings purchased this five acre property, along with an additional 95 acres, from James M. Seth in 1846. Following his death in 1852, part of the Cummings estate was acquired by John V. Lowe. Lewis Cummings, Larrimore's son, bought this five acre plot from Lowe in 1856 and made it his home until 1894. It is unclear whether a house existed on this five acre plot when Lewis purchased it in 1856 although one of his children claims to have been born there in 1853. A house is clearly represented on this site in the 1858 map of Talbot County.

According to local lore, a house had existed on this site since the War of 1812. Sailing vessels used to come ashore on the property and take fresh water from the artesian well which flowed there. A January 6, 1947 Star Democrat article entitled "Mrs. L.A. Fluhart of Tilghman Dies at 93," concerns Lewis Cummings' daughter and her memories of the house and its history. Mrs. Fluhart claimed she was born in the Cummings house on May 10, 1853 and lived there until 1873 when she married Lewis Fluhart. She remembered a slave settlement near their home and Union troops camping on the Cummings property during the Civil War.

The Cummings house remains isolated from neighboring buildings, and sits less than ten feet from the edge of Black Walnut, or Barney's Cove. Its situation is typical of the few homes that were scattered over Tilghman's Island in the maps of the 1840s and 1850s.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-816

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, architectural historian

organization Talbot County Planning Office date 8/90

street & number Talbot County Courthouse telephone 822-2030

city or town Easton state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

T-816  
Lewis Cumming's House  
Tilghman Island Quadrangle





LEWIS CUMMINGS HOUSE

T-816

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

EASTERN ELEVATION

ELIZABETH HUGHES, PHOTOGRAPHER

8/1/17





LEWIS LUMMING'S HOUSE

T- 816

TILGHMAN ISLAND, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

WESTERN ELEVATION.

ELIZABETH HUGHES, PHOTOGRAPHER.

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